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IN MEMORY OF HUGH LOSSON
HILL, 1855-1937

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In Memory of
Hugh Losson Hill
1855-1937

COMPLIMENTS OF
L. F. HILL
AND
FAMILY

Allen County Public Library
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

About Our Ancestors

Hill.

Hill, as a surname, is supposed to be derived from its first owner's residence on or near a hill. Others give a more interesting origin, namely, that it comes from hild, an Anglo-Saxon word signifying battle or war.

Hild or Hilda was the "Battlemaid" of the Valkyrie, who was appointed by Odin to select the victims in war.

In German, besides Hild, there are the names Hilt and Hillie. Variations of the names are Hillson, Hilder, Hillmen, Hillmer, Hilgers, Hilyer, Hildrup, Hillier, Hillyer, Hillary may come from the same root word. Its variations are Hillaire, in French; Illario, in Italian; Gilary, in Russian; and Ylla, in Frisian.

The Hills in England are traced to County Hants, where one of the early forms of the name was del Hil. Geoffrey del Hil, or "at Hil," appears in early records. The name was also spelled Hyll.

The family has its philosopher, Nicholas, and its divine, Adam, men of renown in the sixteenth century; its scientist, Abraham; its lexicographer, Joseph, and its poet, Aaron, all of the seventeenth century; its painter, David; its actor, James; its diplomat, Richard; its antiquary, James; its inventor, Edwin; its author, Pascoe; its controversialist, Sir Richard Hill.

The lord mayor of London, 1492, was Sir Rowland Hill. He was a man of large property, and his benefactions were unbounded. Three hundred years later another Sir Rowland was the originator of the penny postal system. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

The branch of the family to which belongs the Marquises of Downshire descends from one of several brothers who were in Cromwell's army in Ireland. From the other brothers the Hills of the North of Ireland descend.

In early colonial records we find the name Hill or Hills—as often spelled one way or the other.

Valentine Hill, mercer from London, had a large grant of land in Boston, 1638, and was representative to the court. William, called one of the founders of New England, came over in the William and Frances. He held many offices, was auditor of public accounts, and collector of customs at Fairfield.

The founder of the Maine branch of the family was Peter, who died in Biddeford, 1667. Ralph was one of the proprietors of Dover, New Hampshire. Adam Hill was the progenitor of the New York Hills, and one of his descendants, David, was Governor of New York. The family claims another Governor, Isaac, born in 1788, who became Governor of New Hampshire.

Richard Hill of Pennsylvania is recognized as a leader who did much to preserve Quaker ascendancy. He was a friend of Penn, who named him trustee in his will.

Robert Hill was the immigrant-ancestor of Virginia, 1620. His three sons were Edward, John, and Nicholas of Elizabeth City County. The family "were very celebrated" and married into equally distinguished families—the Carters, for one. Elizabeth, daughter of Col. Edward Hill of the third generation, married John, son of Robert or "King Carter." From Hill Carter of "Red Lands," Albemarle County, are descended the Carters of Richmond.

In colonial wars the family was well represented. There was Capt. Nathaniel, son of Valentine, the colonist, and John, who was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature and one of the Governor's council, 1755. He was a friend of Sir William Pepperell, and many letters which passed between the two, together with commissions—both civil and military, held by the Hills—were discovered a few years ago in an old chest, which had been sealed up for nearly a century.

Nicholas of the New York family was a drummer in the revolution, and was at Valley Forge. He witnessed Cornwallis's surrender. Whitmill Hill, born in North Carolina, served with distinction through the revolutionary struggle. He was a delegate to provincial congresses and to the Continental Congress.

Cotton Mather describes Capt. John Hill's gallant conduct during King William's war. Capt. John belonged to the Maine family. A little romance is interwoven with his war record. He was stationed near Maj. Frost's garrison and dwelling, and his official duties required frequent visits at the Frost home, so the records tell us. The major was obliging enough not only to have a daughter, but a very charming one—Mary by name—and the gallant captain found that duty, to say nothing of his inclinations, often called him to the Frost home. The sequel is not far to seek. The two were married.

A letter from Maj. Frost to his son-in-law, Capt. John, prays God to keep him from the "Rage of the Enemy." The letter is signed, "Your loving father-in-law, Frost," and addressed to Capt. John Hill at Saco Fort—"Hast post hast."

Maj. Frost was killed by the Indians. "It is a great loss to the whole province, and especially to his family. Mistress Frost is very full of sorry."

Peter Hill of New York was a captain in the revolution when 24 years of age. He took part in the defense of Fort Montgomery; where he distinguished himself for gallantry. His father was Nathaniel, the immigrant-ancestor, and his son was Nathaniel, lieutenant in the war of 1812.

The English Hills also have their war records. Maj. Gen. John Hill was a hero of the field—a brother, by the way of Abigail Hill, Queen Anne's favorite, Viscount Hill was with Wellington in Spain, and crowned the glories of a noble career by his gallantry at Waterloo.

Near four-score blazons of arms are found in "Burke" for Hill and four for Hills.

The Hill family of Staffordshire, England, bear Arms: Gules, two bars ermine, in chief a lion passant per pale or and argent.

Crest: A fleur-de-lis-argent.

Motto: *Esse quam videri*—To be rather than to seem.

Arms for the Virginia family, illustrated, are: Azure, on a chevron, between three owls argent three mullets sable, a bordure ermine.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE HILL FAMILY.

Hugh L. Hill, retired farmer; German P. O, Darke County Ohio A. D., 1880.

Mr. Hill is one of the few remaining pioneers of this county; he was born in York district, South Carolina, the 1st of February, 1815; is of Irish descent; he is the son of William E. Hill, whose father, William Hill, came from Ireland, William E., was born in Frankstown Washington Co., Md., April 9, 1772; though of Irish birth, the first language he lisped was german, that being the prevailing language of his native town; his parents moved to South Carolina when he was quite a small lad; his father was one of the patriots during the great struggle for American freedom, and took an active part in it; near the close of the war, when the British and Tories held possession of South Carolina, and were visiting the patriots with merciless severity and cruelty, murdering hundreds in cold blood, they called at the house of Mr. Hill, thinking to find and dispatch him as they had many other brave men, but Mr. Hill was at his post of duty repelling the blood thirsty murderers, and they failed to find him; not being able to ascertain his whereabouts from Mrs. Hill, equally patriotic and his daughter, they attempted to extort the desired information from William E., then a lad of about nine summers, by hanging him; this they did several times, punishing him most severely, but to no avail; thus failing in their purpose, they proceeded to plunder the house, taking out the feather beds and scattering the feathers to the winds, William E. Hill's boyhood was spent upon a farm, but quite early in life he turned his attention to the carpenters trade to the construction of cotton gins and cotton screws chiefly; being raised in a slave State, his early training was such as to lead him to look favorably on this system of servitude, but his nature never could endure to see the slaves cruelly used; at one period in his life, he was called near Charleston to erect a cotton gin for Rambert, one of the largest slave holders in the country; every evening those slaves who failed to perform the daily task imposed upon them by their cruel master, were taken to the whipping post and unmercifully whipped; their agonies from this could be heard all night through, and Mr. Hill gave it as one of the most painful periods of his life, although he was allowed the comforts and luxuries of the splendid Rambert mansion. In order to obtain a place among the higher class of society, Mr. Hill was obliged to purchase some slaves and become a slaveholder; this purchase proved a financial disaster to him, which misfortune led him to seek a more congenial clime and in the fall of 1817 he emigrated to Ohio, locating on a school section about three miles west of the present town of New Madison. Here he purchased a lease for \$1, with about seven acres cleared on it; here, on this piece of land, he and his devoted wife spent the remainder of their days, and now their bodies lie entered on the same soil. He combined the occupation of cooper and loom manufacturer, and his loomes are yet to be found over this county, relics of pioneer life. Although not much given to the "chase," he had one which ended in a remarkable fruition. In company with two of his neighbors, John Downing and Thomas Mecum, one winter morning, when the ground was covered to an unusual depth with snow, over which a strong crust had formed, he spied seven deer, and gave chase with dogs; the snow

so impeded the progress of the deer that they all soon fell victims to the eager dogs, Mr. Hill was married to Miss Sarah Farris in South Carolina, who was born in County Antrim, Ireland, on the 8th day of March, 1780; she emigrated to America when only 12 years old with her parents, settling on Fishing Creek, York District, South Carolina. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hill and all grew up to years of maturity but three, who died in their infancy, Mr. Hill deceased in April, 1848, his wife surviving him till June, 1855, when her death occurred, thus we record the death of two more of the early pioneers of this county. During their lives, they were successively members of three religious denominations, viz, Presbyterian, United Brethren and Universalist. Our subject was only 2 years old when he came to this county; his early life was not much different from most of the pioneer boys; the log cabin constituted his home and the wilderness his surroundings; poverty was the most constant companion of his youth, and frequently has he been tucked under the bed while his only shirt was receiving a vigorous application of soap and water, the first teakettle used in the family was purchased for \$3, and his mother spun flax and tow, at 12½ cents per dozen cuts, to pay for it. The domestic wear of his sisters consisted of home made goods, made of cotton filling and flax chain, the cotton being carded and spun by hand; these goods, colored in various hues constituted their Sunday costume, the first calico dresses introduced into the neighborhood, by a family from Kentucky, were objects of no little interest to the community, and the family that had the audacity to make such a display of finery as this ran no little risk of being ordered to leave the county or don the home made goods; it was looked upon as a dangerous custom, not to be allowed with impunity; this feeling, however soon wore off, and the fair daughters of the forests were allowed to indulge in the luxuries of a calico dress; the first dress of this make introduced into the family of our subject was purchased of Shadwic & Co., of New Paris, at 25 cents per yard, and paid for in home made goods at the same price; this served as a passport into the higher class of society, financial circumstances did not improve materially till Mr. Hill, grew up to manhood and was able to perform considerable manual labor, at the age of 21, by agreement previously entered into, his father deeded to him 80 acres of land, one half swamp and one half timber; this was his first earthly possession, About this period, March 16, 1837, he celebrated his marriage with Miss Elizabeth Kunkle who was born in 1815, in Bedford Co, Penn., and came to this county with her parents when only 3 years of age, locating in Harrison Township; her mother still living at the ripe old age of 86, in the possession in a remarkable degree of all her faculties. After the marriage of Mr. Hill, he moved to his land, then all in the wild state, hard work and perseverance were demanded of them both to meet the exigencies of their surroundings; these were heartily furnished, Mrs. H, performing her part at the spinning wheel and loom, in addition to the usual domestic duties; after they had been struggling against poverty and its concomitants for some time, Mrs. Hill's mother bequeathed them \$250., the savings of her own small earnings, 218, of which were in silver half dollars; with this Mr. Hill, started for Fort Wayne, Ind., on foot, a distance of ninety miles, to enter land, and succeeded in entering 148 acres in Allen County; at the end of seventeen years, he disposed of his first farm and purchased 160 acres in German Township, Sec. 27, where he has since lived, he subsequently added to this by the purchase of 268 acres; in 1870, is estimated worth was \$20,000, the accumulation of his own exertions, assisted by his wife at this period of his prosperity a great financial calamity befell him, which cost him about \$12000. Mr. and Mrs. Hill are the parents of nine children, six sons and three daughters, and are the grand parents of twenty one children; one son, the youngest and oldest daughter, and five grandchildren have died. Mr. and Mrs. Hill, are members of the Universalist Church at Palestine, Ohio.

OBITUARY

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HUGH LOSSON HILL, was born in York County, Carolina, Feb. 1st, 1815. Came with his parents to Harrison Tp., Darke Co., Ohio, in 1817. He lived there until 1854, when he removed to German Tp. where he lived continuously until time of his death, Dec. 8th, 1900. Aged 85 yrs., 10 mo. and 7 days. He was married to Elizabeth Kunkle, March 16th, 1837, with whom he lived in sweet companionship until her death, Nov. 25, 1894. Since her death he lived with his son Harvey, who with family lovingly ministered to him, as the shadows lengthened and the light of life vanished. There were born to them 9 children, 6 sons and 3 daughters. Five sons and two daughters yet live and all present at the burial of their father.

He was a member of a family of 8 children all of whom are dead but his brother Milton, who lives near New Madison, Ohio.

He joined the Universalist Church at New Madison under the pastorate of Rev. Henry Gifford more than 40 years ago. When the church was organized at Palestine he was one of the charter members, and consecrated his means and his service to the promotion of its work. He was the patriarch of the church, Wise in council, conciliatory in spirit, his voice was always in the interest of peace. Old and young alike confided in him and their confidence was never misplaced. His chance for an education in early life was very limited but he was a student along many lines and possessed a great fund of information on many subjects. He was a close student of the Bible and few knew it better than he. He knew the theological tenets of his church and could defend them against all contestants. He was a natural reformer, giving his influence against slavery until it was abolished. He was a pioneer in temperance reform, was the first in his community to exclude whiskey from the harvest field and raising of buildings, etc. He made total abstinence the rule of his life, and put all his energy into the work of destroying the saloon.

Fortunate is the home, the church and the community in which dwells such a man, Though dead the influence for good lives in many lives. He was buried Dec. 10th from the Universalist Church, followed to his grave by those who knew him best and loved him most. Services were conducted by a former pastor and long time intimate friend, Rev. J. H. Blackford, according to an arrangement made years ago. The world is richer in all good things because he lived. He exemplified the Christian life, Thank God for him and such as he, J. H. Blackford

IN MEMORIAM.

Elizabeth Hill, nee Kunkle, was born in Bedford Co., Penn., Jan. 25, 1815. Died of paralysis of the stomach at her home in Palestine, Darke Co., O., Nov. 25, 1894, at the age of 79 years and 10 months.

She came with her parents to Darke Co., in 1818, when the country was almost a wilderness. She has helped to make it blossom as the rose. She found it but recently in possession of the savage, and she did her part in giving the Christian civilization of to-day.

She united in marriage with Hugh L. Hill, March 16, 1837. They lived together in confidence and peace until the time of her death, a space of nearly 58 years. There was born to them 9 children, 6 sons and 3 daughters. Seven are living and all were present at the funeral but one son whose home is in Kansas. Have living, 22 grand children and 3 great-grand children. Her devoted husband remains to finish life's pilgrimage unaccompanied by her whose companionship he had shared so long. Two brothers and one sister are left behind of the family of which she was a member. She joined the Universalist Church at New Madison under the pastorate of Rev. H. Gillord, about 45 years ago. When the church was organized at Palestine her membership was transferred to that place. The Church had no more faithful, devoted and loyal soul. Every department of the church work received her tireless support. What is usually considered the juvenile departments of the Church—the Sunday School and Young People's Union, received her attention equally with the others. The young people all loved "Aunt Betsy," as she was familiarly called, and their meetings were wanting in interest if she was not there to counsel and to bless. Her religion did not consist alone in working for the Church and observing its ordinances; she was a veritable good samaritan. Whoever suffered had her sympathy, and whoever was in need was sure of her aid. Whoever battled against wrong in any of its forms, found her by his side dealing heroic blows and cheering with words of encouragement the faint-hearted. Whoever sought to build up righteousness found in her a co-worker whose enthusiasm never cooled, and whose efforts never slackened.

A faithful wife, a loving dutiful mother, kind neighbor, a devoted Christian, a ceaseless worker in every good cause, is gone, but the world is richer and better because she has lived.

She was buried Nov. 27, from the Universalist Church, her long-time pastor and friend, Rev. J. H. Blackford, officiating. A large concourse was present testifying to their love and respect for the dead, and expressing their sympathy for the aged companion and children, upon whom have come this great sorrow.

O gently fold the weary hands
That toiled so long and well;
The spirit rose to angel bands
When off earth's mantle fell.

WINCHESTER, IND., MARCH 11th, 1921.

Hugh Losson Hill, Jr., was born in German Tp. Darke Co., Ohio, Oct. 15th, 1855. Where he lived with his parents until 21 years of age, when he was married to Cordelia Brown, Oct. 14th, 1876. In March 1877, he moved on a farm of 80 acres, in Harrison Tp. owned by his wife and her brother Lloyd Brown, where he lived until in the spring of 1880. When his wife and her brother Lloyd sold the farm to Mike Nogle, a near neighbor at that time, then he moved to Palestine, Ohio, where he with Lloyd Brown engaged in the general merchandise business having bought a stock of goods from Sol Kester, who had been in the mercantile business for some years past. In September of the same year, Mrs. Hill was stricken with typhoid fever, from which she died, Oct. 22, 1880. There were born to this union two children, Winnie M, Aug. 12th, 1878, and Lloyd F, May 7th, 1880, who are both living at this writing. The following spring after the death of Mrs. Hill, Hill & Brown, (as that was the firm name) sold the store to Eli Willson. So by this sale the partnership was dissolved. Then Mr. Hill bought 40 acres of land off of the Eakins farm, joining his fathers farm where he was born and lived until his marriage. I think it was in April, 1883, he went to Friend, Neb., to visit with his brother, Ephraim Hill who had previously moved there. While there he engaged in the manufacturing and selling of washing machines with his brother Ephraim, which he followed for about two years. Then he come back to Palestine, where he hired to his brother Harvey, to work on the farm one year for the sum of \$150. At the same time his sister Kate, was boarding his two children for \$3 a week so his salary lacked six dollars of paying the childrens board for the same period of time, so he was compelled to look for more remunerative work. The following spring he hired to his cousin, Joseph Hill, Carpenter and Contractor, for \$1.25 per day of ten hours. The first work was running a boring machine, boring out the frame of a large bank barn for George Henry Teaford, one and one half miles south of Palestine. The next job was building a house for Adam Miller, on a farm formerly owned by Father Hill. Then a house for Anderson Smelker, two miles west of New Madison. The next job was a large bank barn, 40 by 72 ft., for Wash Brown, about 4 mi. south of Palestine. This occupation he followed for a number of years for several years in Dayton, Ohio. A part of the time while in Dayton, he worked in the Barney & Smith Car works finishing coaches. Then sold the Singer sewing machine for three or four years, one year at Lima, Ohio, then located in Winchester, Ind., where he made his home with his brother-in-law and sister Mr. and Mrs. Lee Taylor. (In April, 1898). Then resumed the carpenter business again working at it until 1907, the last work he done in 1906, was helping on the finishing of the Grand Lodge building of the K. of P., in Indianapolis, Ind., on March 16th, 1907. He with J. Johnson, as a partner opened up a Grocery Store, in Winchester. The partner business did not prove very satisfactory so in about a year he bought Johnston's interest in the Grocery and conducted the business himself until June 1st, 1920, when he traded the grocery and 80 acres of land located 1 mi. south of Whitewater, Ind., for 117 acres, 1 mile north of Barton, Ind. He then resumed the carpentry business again. Unfortunately on the 30th of July, 1920, while working on a roof the scaffold gave way and caused him to fall to the ground, alighting on his left heel with his full weight causing a compound fracture of the heel and is not able to resume work yet.

Soon after locating in Winchester, he sold the 40 acres of land in Ohio, and bought 80 acres 2 mile East of Winchester. In Jan., 1904, his son L. F. Hill (who was married to Bertha Saxton, Jan. 12th, 1901,) moved on this farm and is living there at this writing. In 1918, he traded this farm to his son L. F., for 80 acres in Wayne Co., about one mile south of Whitewater, Ind. His daughter Winnie, was married to Harley T. Brown, a school teacher, Aug. 11th, 1900, moved to New Paris, Ohio where they lived until his death. He was stricken with typhoid fever from which he died, Oct. 11th, 1903. He then moved his daughter to Winchester to keep house for him. Soon after this he bought a property on Richmond St., where he lived for a few years. Then traded that property for 40 acres of land 5 mi. south east of Winchester, then in a few months he traded that farm for a property located 517, West North St., Winchester, Ind., where he lives at this writing.

Picking up the threads of my father's life history where he left off, I, his daughter, Winnie M. Brown will endeavor to complete it to the best of my ability.

At the urgent invitation of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Taylor he came to Los Angeles, Calif. in Dec. 1921.

Lloyd
Fidelis

He continued to work at carpenter trade in Calif. During the summer of 1923 he and the Taylors returned to Indiana for a few weeks visit. Soon after returning to California in the fall he bought a lot and built a home at 625 E. 80th St., Los Angeles.

In 1925 he bought a cabinet shop in Lynwood. This business adventure proved very profitable for a number of years, but in 1931 his eyesight began to fail, caused by cataract.

He persisted in trying to carry on his business but in the spring of 1932, being almost blind, he was compelled to sell the shop.

In July of the same year he and his daughter, Winnie M. Brown, accompanied by his nephew, Harvey Sellmen, drove back to Indiana with the intention of making his home with his son, L. F. Hill of Winchester.

In a few weeks after returning to Indiana he had a successful operation performed upon one eye restoring the sight.

He liked to live in California and soon became homesick to go back to his own home.

So in the fall of 1934 his granddaughter Helen Kern of Frankfort, Ind., brought he and his daughter back to his home in Los Angeles.

Needless to say he was very happy, not only to be home again but to be near his only living brother, Harvey Hill of Lynwood.

Their love and brotherly affection for each other in their declining years was beautifully to witness. He spent at least one day a week with brother Harve up until a few weeks before his death which occurred April 30th, 1937. His age at death was 81 yrs., 6 months, 15 days. He was next to the youngest of a family of nine children, 6 boys and 3 girls.

He is survived by the one brother Harvey Hill, two children, Winnie M. Brown of Los Angeles, Lloyd E. Hill of Winchester, Ind., and four grandchildren, Eugene L. Brown of Los Angeles, Helen E. Kern of Frankfort, Ind., Verle Hill of South Bend, and Robert Hill of Winchester, Indiana. Also three great-grandchildren, Richard, Gwendolyn, and Ardith Brown of Los Angeles.

Funeral Services were conducted from Angeles Abbey, Saturday, May 1st, 1937.



Autographs



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